(c) The existing arrangements are consider adeuate.

Powers and functions of the North-eastern Council

847. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the powers and functions of the reconstituted North-Eastern Council;

(b) who would be the permanent Chairman of the Council; and

(c) whether it is better to keep it directly under a separate Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The North Eastern Council has not yet been reconstituted. It has, however, been decided to restructure the North Eastern Council with the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission as Chairman and the Chief Ministers of the 7 North Eastern States as Members. The North Eastern Council would also have powers to sanction schemes once approved by the Council within its approved Budget subject to such conditions as may be laid down by the Central Government. The Scope of the schemes of the North Eastern Council will include major schemes of inter-State benefit located in individual States in addition to schemes of inter-State character. The North Eastern Council would shed its role of reviewing security related matters.

(c) After appropriate amendments to the North Eastern Council Act, 1971 the administrative control of the Council is proposed to be transferred from the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Planning Commission.

Cases of theft, robbery registered with Paharganj Police Station

848. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered in the Paharganj Police Station regarding Theft/robberies in the Aram Bagh area of New Delhi during the month of June, 1997 till date;

(b) whether cases of theft/robberies are increasing day-by-day in the locality; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Two cases of theft in the Aram Bagh area were registered at the Paharganj Police Station during the Period from 1st June, 1997 to the 10th July, 1997.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, However, Delhi Police is exercising increased vigilance in the area.

Arms dropping in Purulia

849. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that one foreign agency alerted New Delhi about possibility of arms dropping operation in West Bengal-Bihar border areas specially Purulia;

(b) if so, why the concerned authority failed to alert the concerned security agencies; and

(c) what follow-up action has been initiated for such negligence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Advance information regarding the possibility of arms being unloaded by a small plane after landing at an abondoned airfiled in Dhanbad area